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ABSTRACT

One of a series of instructional materials produced by the Literacy Council of Alaska, this booklet provides basic fire safety information. Using both simplified sentence structure and vocabulary, it presents suggestions for preventing fires in the home and outlines steps to take should such a fire occur. (FL)

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Fire!

Don't Let It Happen To You!

by

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Alaska Area Native Health Service
Office of Environmental Health
Environmental Health Services
Anchorage, Alaska

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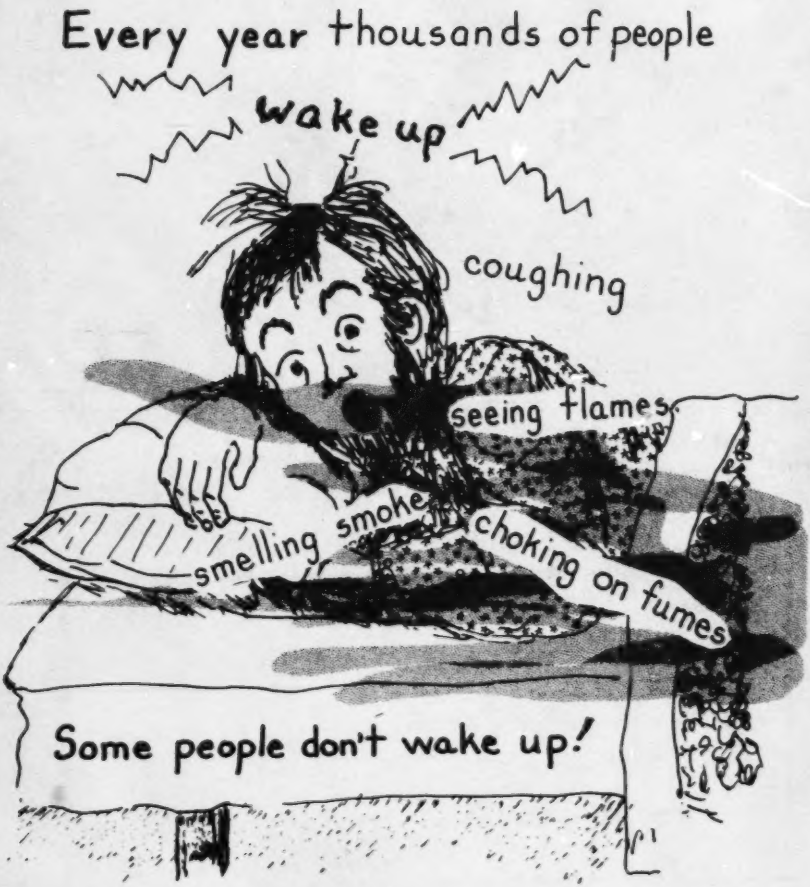
"Fire!" Someone yells in the dark of night!
You try to wake up.
Your heart pounds.
Your chest feels like it's full of broken glass.
You don't know which way to run.

"Fire!" There it is again!
It is spine chilling!
You think of your family.
You think of your house.

"Fire!" The cry rips through the night.
You smell smoke.
It chokes you.
You hear people running,
kids crying,
things falling.

And you know....
It has happened to you!


Every year thousands of people
wake up
coughing
seeing flames
smelling smoke
choking on fumes
Some people don't wake up!

Every year in Alaska,

30 to 40 Alaskans die in Fires.

Nearly 100 are badly hurt.

80% of the deaths by fire in Alaska are caused by drinking...

... people who drink ~ while smoking or cooking

... people who leave their kids alone ~ and go out drinking!

Many of the victims are children!

Do you know....

Most people who die in fires
are not burned!

They die from breathing –
smoke or hot, poisonous gases.

Most home fires happen at night.

Most fires are caused by people –
careless people!

Most fire deaths can be prevented.

You can prevent home fires!

Fires don't have to happen!
Most fires can be Prevented!

Here is what you can do....

...to help **prevent** fires...

...to **save the lives** of people you **love**.

Know about fire!

Know the things that cause fires.

Know what makes a fire burn.

Know how to make your home **fire-safe.**

Know how to make an escape plan.

Know how to escape from a burning house.

Know what to do if you see a small fire start.

Know how to...

Keep cool so you won't **burn!**

cooking accidents
smokers
electricity
gas and kerosene lamps
heater stoves and furnaces
trash
These things cause
fires

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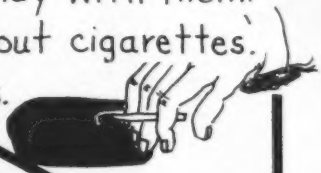
Matches Lighters Cigarettes

Put lighters and matches away so little kids can't play with them.

Adults should always stub out cigarettes.

Use large, safe ashtrays.



Spilled fat can cause fires.

Keep **Gas lamps** away from Kids and curtains.

Electricity

Broken plugs, worn out cords, too many plugs in one outlet... ...can cause fires.

Heaters and furnaces

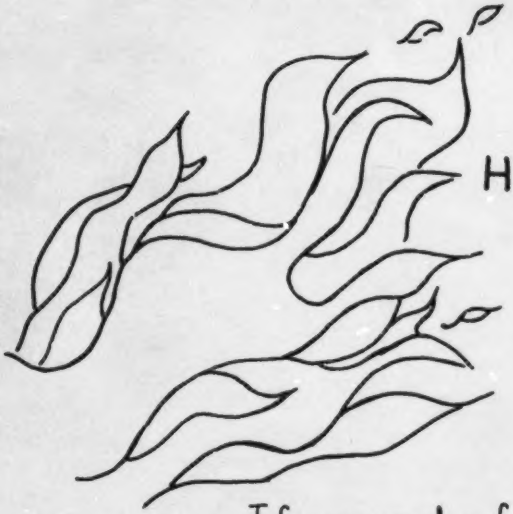
Check and clean often.

Piles of trash

Clean them up!

To **burn**...

a **fire** needs **three** things...



Heat

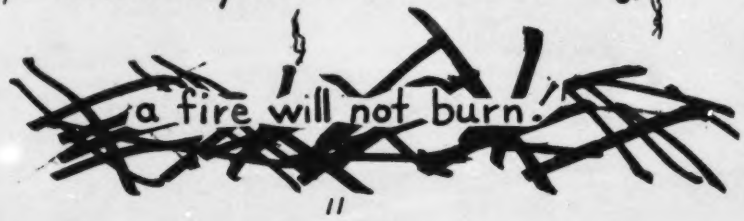
Air

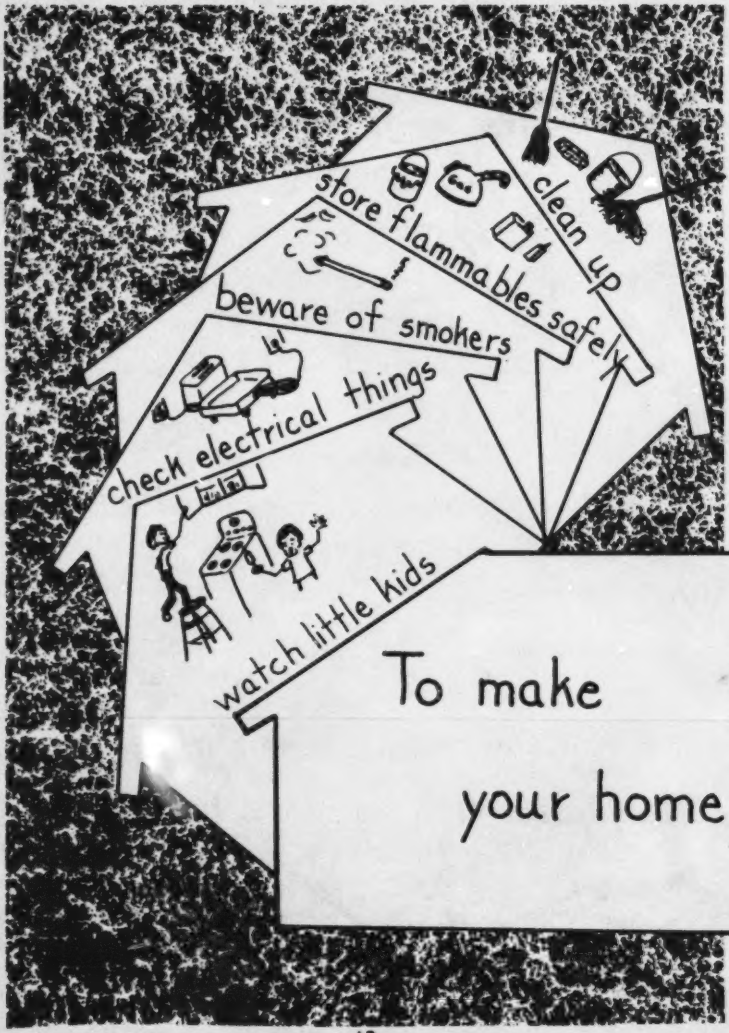
Fuel

If you **cool** a fire with water...

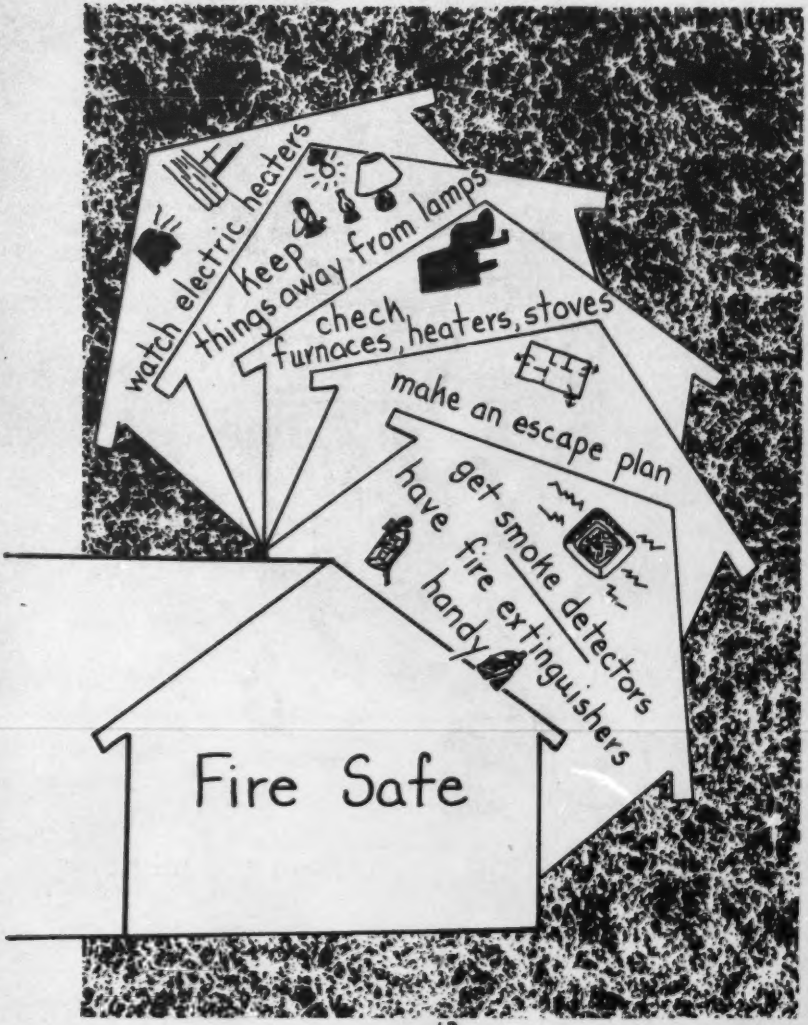
If you take away the air, or **smother**, a fire...

If you **take away** what a fire is **burning**,





To make your home


watch electric heaters
keep things away from lamps
check furnaces, heaters, stoves
make an escape plan
get smoke detectors
have fire extinguishers handy
Fire Safe

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Clean up!

Get rid of all that trash and junk.

Store flammables ....

in tightly closed cans,

away from heat!

gasoline

kerosene

paint thinner

cleaning fluid

paint

Never keep gas on a porch!

Fumes are just as dangerous as the **gas**!
Store gas **outdoors**.

Don't start fires with these things!

If someone **smokes** they should **never** smoke in bed!

Keep matches and lighters ~
away from kids!

Check electrical things!

If something ...

1. doesn't **work** right....
2. or if you get a tingle....
3. or if something smells funny....
4. or if the lights flicker or get dim....

Unplug it — Fix it — or

Throw it away!

Check electric cords!

Look for **cracked** plugs

or **worn** out cords.

Never run extension cords under rugs,

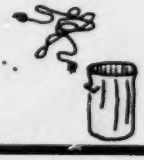
or through a doorway.

Never tack or nail through the cord.

Never plug too many things into one outlet.

If a cord is worn out...

Throw it away!



Children + fire = Danger!

Never leave little kids in a house ~ alone!

Kids try things!

Kids are curious!

Kids are careless!

Kids forget!

Make your home **Fire Safe** for kids!

Keep electric heaters ....

TVs get **hot!**
Never cover a TV
with a cloth!

Light bulbs get **hot!**

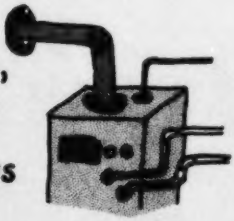
They can **burn** cloth and paper.
Keep light bulbs *away from*
curtains or clothes.

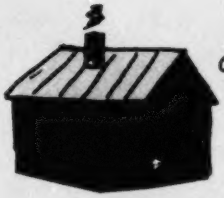
Never hang something
over a lamp!

Wood stoves,

oil heater stoves,

furnaces,





and chimneys

...need to be <u>checked</u> often —

and <u>cleaned</u> once a year!

Never hang clothes near a stove!

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Every home should have
at least one
Smoke Detector

Every home should have
at least one
Fire Extinguisher...

....and everyone should know
how to **use** it!

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Every family

should have an **Escape Plan!**

Plan how everyone would get out....

if your house was on fire!

Why?

Fire is fast!

Smoke and **hot gases** can kill in seconds!

Most **fires** that **kill** happen at night.

People, especially children and old people,

can get **confused** and **scared.**

They **panic!**

They may try to **hide** in the burning house.

So... Make an escape plan.

Practice escaping.

Have a fire drill for the whole family!

Then... **if** you ever **do** have a fire,

everyone will know **what to do!**

Here is how to set up a ....

Home Fire Escape Plan

1. Find all the windows and doors you can get out of.
   Put ladders up to high windows.
   Plan at least two ways out of every room.

2. If you don't have a smoke alarm....
   agree on a way to wake everyone up!
   Pound on the walls! Blow a whistle!

3. Agree on a place to meet outside,
   so you can see quickly if everyone is safe.

4. Keep all emergency numbers near the phone.
   If you don't have a phone....
   go to the neighbors for help,
   or sound the alarm!

Tell everyone in the family....

Once you are outside - Stay out!

Don't go back in the house for anything!

If you wake up in the night —

and smell smoke!

Don't panic!

Roll out of bed.

Don't stand up until you know how bad the fire is.

Stay close to the floor!

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Here is what to do....

1. Wake everyone up! Quickly!
2. Remember your escape plan!
   Get out of the house!
3. Stop only to help someone who cannot get out by himself!

Do not try to rescue someone through heavy smoke or flames!

You both could die!

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4. Get to **fresh air!** Quickly!
If you smell smoke ....
cover your face
and crawl along the **floor.**

The *best* air is near the floor!

5. Don't **jump** from a high window.
Hang from the edge, then **drop!**

6. If you have to **break** a window out,
cover the broken glass ~
with a blanket!

7. Get the whole family together.
Don't let anyone go back in the house!

8. Do whatever is done in your community ~
to get help!

Call the Fire Department ~
or your neighbors.

Sound the alarm.

Ring the church bell.

Call on a CB unit.

Save people, not things!

Clothes can catch fire!

Fast!

If your clothes catch fire...

Don't run!

Stop!

Drop!

Roll!

All fires start small.

Nighttime fires

are the most dangerous!

By the time you wake up....

...the fire is too Big to fight!

If this happens — Get Out!

But...

If you see a fire start...
or if you see a small fire...

1st... get everybody out!

Then...put the fire out!

Cool it with water.

⟶ Don't put water on
a fire caused by electricity!

Smother it!

Cover a burning pan with a lid or plate.

Cover a small kitchen fire with...
... salt or soda ~ not flour!

Use a fire extinguisher!

Do not try to fight a fire that is
bigger than you!

Kids under 12 should get help!

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"Fire!"

The cry rips through the night!

It has happened!

"Fire!" "Fire!" "Fire!"

"Fire!"

Don't let it happen to you!